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For Immediate Release

## **Montanans Urged to Volunteer On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service**

[Serve.MT.gov](http://Serve.MT.gov)

*"Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?"*

*-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Helena –The Governor's Office of Community Service ([Serve.MT.gov](http://Serve.MT.gov)) joins with the Corporation for National and Community Service ([nationalservice.gov](http://nationalservice.gov)) in urging Montanans to honor Dr. King's memory on the *January 18th MLK Holiday* by volunteering in a local service project, helping a neighbor or donating food.

"I hope Montanans will think of the MLK Day of Service as a 'day on, not a day off.'" said Jan Lombardi, Director of the Governor's Office of Community Service. "We encourage the public to reach out and help others through community service opportunities, like donations to local food banks or by simply shoveling the sidewalk for a neighbor."

The public can find volunteer opportunities by visiting the website: [Serve.MT.gov](http://Serve.MT.gov).

Hundreds of AmeriCorps members along with Senior Corps Volunteers, across Montana, will be out in communities on *MLK Day* helping to meet local needs through service projects, including: food drives, collecting supplies for shelters, conducting "Diversity" and "Cultural" Fairs and events in Helena, Sidney and Missoula, assisting with "soup kitchens" in Glendive, putting up solar powered lamp posts at community parks at Fort Belknap and Rocky Boy's tribal parks, making "Be Healthy" bags of food and essentials for home-bound seniors in Billings, and more.

Montana's Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) has responded to the *MLK Day* call to service. DPHHS Director Anna Whiting Sorrell has encouraged DPHHS employees statewide to help local food banks.

"According to the Montana Food Bank Network (MFBN), 3 in 10 Montanans are at risk of food insecurity, and over 200,000 households received emergency food last year through MFBN," said DPHHS Director Whiting Sorrell. "I will be volunteering at the Montana Food Bank Network in Missoula and I urge our employees and the public to get involved in their local communities to help fight hunger."

**For more information about the MLK Day of Service and to find volunteer opportunities in Montana, visit the website: [Serve.MT.gov](http://Serve.MT.gov).**

In 1994, Congress designated the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday as a national day of service and selected the Corporation for National and Community Service ([nationalservice.gov](http://nationalservice.gov)) to lead this effort.

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